

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, SEDU, GJ

SUBJECT: GRENADA "MEDICAL SCHOOL"

REF: BRIDGETOWN 2461

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S REPORTING ON MEDICAL SCHOOL PROJECT AND POTENTIAL FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES.
2. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED DOZENS OF TELEPHONE INQUIRIES CONCERNING REPUTATION AND BONA FIDES OF "ST. GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE." IN ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROJECT, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SAY VERY MUCH. SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED BY GOG OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOL TO WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN PLANNED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHOOL BEING LISTED IN WHO, PAHO AND OTHER DIRECTORIES. MANY APPLICANTS INCORRECTLY ASSUME THESE LISTINGS INDICATE ACCREDITATION AND ENDORSEMENT. USE OF GRENADIAN UN MISSION/CONSULATE GENERAL ADDRESS AS MAIL-DROP AND OFFICES FOR INTERVIEWS OF APPLICANTS ALSO SUGGESTS TO SOME APPLICANTS THAT SCHOOL IS WELL ESTABLISHED INSTITU-

TION WITH SOLID CREDENTIALS.

3. IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITIES FOR DISAPPOINTMENT OF ASPIRING MEDICAL STUDENTS AND FRICTION IN US/GOG RELATIONS, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SEND OFFICER TO GRENADA TO DETERMINE STATUS OF MEDICAL SCHOOL PROJECT. OFFICER SHOULD SEEK INFORMATION (FROM GOG, IF NECESSARY) REGARDING CLASSROOM, LABORATORY AND DORMITORY FACILITIES, FACULTY AND OTHER STAFF, ACCREDITATION, FEES CHARGED APPLICANTS AND STUDENTS, FINANCIAL BACKERS AND MANAGERS OF PROJECT, AND RELATIONSHIP OF PROJECT TO ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL AND GOG. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE DESCRIPTION OF ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, INCLUDING NUMBER OF BEDS AND OUT-PATIENTS SEEN, SIZE OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND POPULATION SERVED, AND GENERAL CAPABILITIES OF HOSPITAL. EMBASSY SHOULD REPORT DETAILS TELEGRAPHICALLY AND BEFORE CHRISTMAS, IF POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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